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**GOVERNOR SEBELIUS, ATTORNEY GENERAL KLINE
INTRODUCE PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES**

Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Phill Kline announced today the introduction of legislation designed to significantly impact public safety in our state. The legislative initiatives, which will be introduced in the Senate Judiciary and House Corrections and Juvenile Justice committees, are the first of several planned initiatives to strengthen the penalties for crimes committed by sexual predators, criminals who target law-enforcement officers, and those who commit crimes against children.

"In her State of the State Address, the Governor talked about us working together to protect our children from those who would prey upon them," Kline said. "The Governor and I share a strong desire to see that all citizens of Kansas are safe. This bi-partisan effort is an important first-step toward significantly improving public safety."

The initiatives Governor Sebelius and General Kline are bringing forth deal with several key areas that impact the safety of Kansans. For example, under a proposed law, criminal sexual predators who are convicted twice of rape will be required to serve a mandatory 40-year prison sentence. Also, the penalty for those who promote prostitution of a minor under age 16 will be increased to more accurately reflect the severity of the offense. And, the initiative includes a strengthening of penalties for those who seek out, locate, and batter an off-duty law enforcement officer.

Governor Sebelius says, "I am committed to working with law enforcement, General Kline, and the Legislature to do whatever we can to make Kansas a safer place to live."

Governor Sebelius and Attorney General Kline look forward to appearing jointly before the Legislature to advocate for the passage of their public-safety package.

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